

# the Islander

Spring 2013



*We've got*  
**TEXAS  
COVERED**

**Pioneering Methods  
in Online Education**

**The New School  
of Arts, Media &  
Communication**

**Building an  
Innovation Economy**

Engraved from Official  
Railroad and Government Surveys.



# A First-Choice Des



DR. FLAVIUS C. KILLEBREW  
President/CEO



# Destination

Students do not arrive on the island by accident. Our distinguished faculty and committed staff make Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi a first-choice destination for our more than 10,500 motivated students. Evidence of the type of student the Island University attracts lies in the many awards and distinctions you'll get a glimpse of in this edition of The Islander magazine. We are acknowledged year after year by organizations such as GI Jobs magazine, who rate us as "military-friendly," and the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, who have again awarded the University an "A" rating this year.

As we finish another record-breaking year in enrollment, it's important that we acknowledge the reason many of our students have chosen A&M-Corpus Christi to reach their educational goals. Because it isn't only the beautiful, beachfront view that brings students back to campus each semester; it's our investment in cutting-edge technologies and innovative learning techniques that is propelling our students to success. Whether hands-on research, like the unmanned aerial systems initiative, or real-world experiences, such as internships at the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center; our students are getting measurable advantages in their future careers.

With the increased demand for higher education in South Texas, we are making sure the quality of education and student life continues to improve on the island with updates including additional housing on campus, a new dining hall, a soccer and track stadium, and an expansion of the University Center.

We are proud to meet the challenges and opportunities that new technology brings to us every day. Recently we released our Islander Mobile App, which gives students, alumni and the rest of the community one-touch access to the University on their mobile phones. I invite you to download the app from your app store and see the many reasons Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is the best investment for our students' education and for our community.

Dr. Flavius Killebrew  
President/CEO  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
@FlaviusKillebre

## the Islander

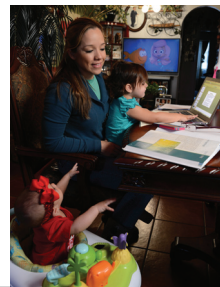
is produced in fall and spring by the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Office of Marketing & Communications, part of the Division of Institutional Advancement. Content in the magazine is designed to enlighten the University's alumni and friends on Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's people, programs and activities. Comments and editorial ideas should be sent to:

The Islander c/o Office of Marketing & Communications,  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5726, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5726

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### ON THE COVER


Each of the University's diverse programs and activities make up an integral part of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's service to the state of Texas. As a public university and a Hispanic Serving Institution, the Island University ensures that every part of life as a Texan is honored, researched, and developed through more than 80 degree programs and at the University's 13 research institutes.



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indicates an  
interactive online  
feature at  
[www.tamucc.edu](http://www.tamucc.edu)



# Lifeline to a new Health

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue cardigan over a green shirt, sits at a desk. A young girl with brown hair, wearing a teal shirt, sits next to her, pointing at a laptop screen. In the foreground, the back of a child's head with a large red bow is visible. The desk has a laptop, a smartphone, glasses, and some papers. The background shows a home office with a potted plant and a bicycle on the wall.

Irene Singles, a married mother of two, is graduating in August through the eLine Military program. Nursing wasn't her original career choice, but she says she is glad she has found her way.

"I didn't want to go into nursing," Singles said. "But I would have free time in the military to help the staff in Iraq and doing that for a while was confirmation for me."

She was in the military for seven years before making the decision to go back to school while on active duty. Stationed in Colorado, Singles searched for universities that concentrated on online nursing programs and came across Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

The eLine Military program is the only one in the country granting college credit for her military medical service.

"The nursing faculty here is very helpful," Singles said. "I can call them or stop by their offices any time. They're so responsive."

Singles says by being a part of the eLine Military program she can multitask, taking care of her children and doing homework.

"Going to school through this program has made things so much easier," Singles said. "It would not have been possible for me to go to school and get an education without eLine."



# generation of Professionals

## Online Programs Create New Avenues for Potential Students

Dr. Bunny Forgione sits in her office at Islander Hall in the evening, discussing the proper procedures for maternal newborn nursing. There's no one else in the room, because her students are all at least 10 miles away, taking the online course from the comfort of their own homes.

Online programs, including the undergraduate eLine, eLine Military and the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, from the College of Nursing & Health Sciences are leading the charge to relieve nursing shortages across the state.

"These programs cater to students who are passionate about the profession as well as those looking to change professions," said Dr. Forgione, Associate Dean of Nursing and an eLine professor. "Students work at their own pace, and the programs are expanding the opportunity for others to come into the field."

The Texas Department of State Health Services reports the state will need 71,000 nurses by 2020 as demand continues to outpace supply.

"There's also a shortage of nursing faculty and dependable nurses in hospitals," said Forgione.

Recognized nationally by **U.S. News & World Report**, the MSN program uses the latest techniques in technology-based learning for those who do not have time for the traditional classroom settings. It's now the **fourth-largest MSN program in the state**.

Dr. Eve Layman, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in Nursing Education, says the online programs were designed for full-time workers who still want a quality education but cannot access the old-fashioned way of the physical classroom.

"While we have countless hours of contact with students, we may only see them in person a handful of times," Dr. Layman said. Nursing students participating in the online programs utilize web conferencing options, such as WebEx, Skype, and group chat to communicate with professors.

"This type of technology is crucial to our students' success," said Dr. Mary Jane Hamilton, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "Our programs are thriving and our faculty have become pioneers in the field of online learning."



See it for yourself!  
Play the video at [elinemilitary.tamucc.edu](http://elinemilitary.tamucc.edu)



## College of Nursing & Health Sciences

### U.S. News & World Report Ranks Graduate Nursing Program Among the Best Online Programs

The University's **Graduate Nursing Program** has been ranked as one of the 2013 **Best Online Education Programs** by **U.S. News & World Report**. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's graduate nursing program came in at number 31 out of 101 schools with online programs. Only degree-granting programs offering courses that are 100 percent online were considered for the rankings. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers three completely online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) tracts: Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Education, and Leadership in Nursing Systems. The College also offers a cooperative Ph.D. program with Texas Woman's University.

### DR. JUDITH SUTHERLAND

has been honored as Professor Emerita of Nursing at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi from The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. The title

of Emeritus is conferred on faculty with 10 or more years of service, who have made significant contributions to teaching, research, and service that go beyond the normal duties and responsibilities of an appointment. Sutherland, the first Emeritus Professor named in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, retired from the College in May 2010. She had 12 years of outstanding teaching, service, and scholarship within the College.



### PATRICIA CONARD,

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing, has been invited to serve on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) task force team.

AACN is partnering with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. military to develop a toolkit to help faculty address the needs of veterans and their families.





### Loris J. Welhausen Quasi-Endowment Approved

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the establishment of the **Loris J. Welhausen Quasi-Endowment** on Nov. 2, 2012. The endowment honors the memory of Welhausen, a woman who volunteered her time to a 4-H girls group on Ward Island, now the Island campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Quasi-Endowment will fund student scholarships at the Island University.

### University Professors Among Corpus Christi's '40-Under-40' Honorees, 'Person of the Year'



**Dr. Magesh Thiyagarajan**, Assistant Professor of Engineering, and **Dr. Isabel Araiza**, Associate Professor of Sociology, have been recognized by **Corpus Christi Under 40 (CCU40)** for contributions in their

professional fields and their service in the community. Both professors are among 40 young

professionals under the age of 40 to be chosen for the award. **Thiyagarajan**, Director of the Plasma Engineering Research Lab, was also named **"Person of the Year."** Texas A&M-Corpus Christi alumni earning the prestigious award were College of Business graduates Matthew Ezell, Gregory Freeman, Michelle E. Ramirez, and Colette Rye; College of Education graduates Leslie Balerio and Adam Farrell; College of Liberal Arts graduates Lindy Burns, Marco Castillo, Krystal Houck, and Barbi Leo; and College of Science and Engineering graduate Marco Longoria. The recipients were recognized during the Mayor's Breakfast at the Omni Bayfront Hotel in January.



### Energy Conservation Program Utilizes Technology, Renewable Resources

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is utilizing state-of-the-art technology and renewable resources to create a high-efficiency **Energy Conservation Program** that will result in major savings at all three campuses. Based on their recommendations, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is implementing plans that will maximize conservation measures and employ alternative energy sources including wind turbines, solar panels, and potentially ocean energy.

### Islanders Dedicate Thomas J. Henry Marquee on Momentum Campus

The Department of Athletics unveiled the new **Momentum Campus Thomas J. Henry Marquee**, located at the corner of Nile and Ennis Joslin, in December. The marquee hosts information about Islanders Athletics and the Island University. The 5-by-12 LED sign also provides a front door for the Momentum Campus.



The Thomas J. Henry Tennis Center was the first Islanders facility on the land, with the Dr. Jack Dugan Family Soccer & Track Stadium to be completed in fall 2013, set to be the second athletic facility at the complex.

### McNair Program Receives \$1.1 Million Grant

The McNair Scholars Program has been awarded a **\$1.1 million grant** from the **U.S. Department of Education** to assist low-income, first-generation college students and other underrepresented groups. The five-year federal grant was submitted for renewal by **Dr. Patricia Spaniol-Mathews**, Director of the McNair Scholars Program, and Dr. Gerardo Moreno, Assistant Vice President for Student Success. The McNair Scholars Program prepares qualified undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities including STEM research projects. McNair Scholars receive a \$2,500 summer research stipend, a major factor in providing low-income and first-generation college students with the opportunity to enhance their research skills and present research nationally.

### Kathryn Funk-Baxter Inducted Into 'Y Women in Careers' Hall of Fame

**Kathryn Funk-Baxter**, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration, was inducted into the **Y Women in Careers Hall of Fame** during the 33rd annual YWCA awards banquet. She is one of the eight Coastal Bend women who were honored for their professional accomplishments, contributions to the community, and for serving as a role model to girls.

During her 18-year tenure at the University, Funk-Baxter has made it a top priority to maximize University dollars in order to keep tuition affordable and allow the Island University to make higher education accessible to as many students as possible. Her leadership with carefully-planned projects has allowed the University to adequately prepare for its unprecedented growth, through upgrades in technology, new buildings, and new spaces for recreation.





**For more than a decade, University leaders have been working to emphasize the importance of the arts.**

Today, the School of Arts, Media & Communication (SAMC) at the Island University is proving to be the cultural heartbeat of the Coastal Bend.



The cultural impact of the new school has been noted around the Coastal Bend through a variety of community events.

The Island University is promoting arts education through youth summer camps, plays, dance festivals, concerts, art exhibits, and film festivals. Students also participate in service-learning projects that benefit local non-profits.

"There's something for everyone," says Dr. Quintanilla. "The new school will offer cultural enrichment and collaborative opportunities to all University students and

# FOUR DEPARTMENTS IN THE [SAMC] SCHOOL OF ARTS, MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

ART • COMMUNICATION & MEDIA • MUSIC  
THEATRE & DANCE



members of the South Texas community. Students will also engage in experiential learning, develop key leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills, and apply 21st century technology in service of expressing and understanding human experience."

All disciplines will focus on collaboration and application of skills and knowledge, which will result in students developing highly marketable skills as they serve their community through an array of engaging projects.

"To meet demands in these fields, we recently developed a new media program, and we're expanding graphic design, and finalizing a minor in digital journalism," Dr. Quintanilla says. "These programs are taught by our award-winning faculty, many of whom have been recognized for their scholarly and creative activity."

Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Director of SAMC, has transitioned the school from dream to reality, working one-on-one with dedicated faculty and staff, and University President Flavius Killebrew.







## SAMC Program Highlights

The Art program has added an MA/MFA program with 62 percent of the graduate students pursuing a terminal degree.

The Communication program developed a Public Relations minor, one of the largest minors on campus. In 2009, a Master of Arts in Communication was added.

The Theatre program has expanded six-fold in majors. Also a certificate program in Dance has been added.

The Music program has developed a new program in Music Industry.



“Many individuals have stepped forward to help create this school, which will provide greater opportunities for collaboration and synergy and allow us to become a more powerful influence on the arts and communication in the Coastal Bend,” says Dr. Quintanilla. “We’re excited to offer so many unique aspects of the arts to our community.”

Around campus, song-and-dance student flash mobs pleasantly surprise bystanders. Throughout the year, the University welcomes the public to experience iron pours, printmaking demonstrations, student-directed one-act plays, and an array of other free attractions. And, area singers of all ages are encouraged to participate in the University-sponsored Corpus Christi Idol competition.

Provost Christopher Markwood says he knows firsthand the cultural and economic value that the new School of Arts, Media & Communication (SAMC) can bring to the Island University and the surrounding Coastal Bend community.

Markwood says that the exponential growth in the number of students pursuing SAMC-related degrees will boost the potential for the city and community.

“There will be numerous opportunities for Corpus Christi to grow into a cultural hub that will initiate and attract all aspects of creative activity and cultural enrichment,” says Markwood. “One of the things major companies look for in potential metropolitan locations is a vibrant arts community.”

The formation of SAMC, which is part of the College of Liberal Arts, was announced last October as a way to support







growing programs that have nearly doubled in majors since 2002.

The purpose is to develop and promote collaboration, innovation, and creation among students and faculty in visual arts, music, theatre, dance, media, and communication.

“As we move into the digital age of the 21st century, students must have the ability to think creatively,” says Markwood. “Our students will be highly competitive in the marketplace not just because they will be experts in their crafts, but because of their innovation in creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills.”

See it for yourself!  
Play the video at [samc.tamucc.edu](http://samc.tamucc.edu)



## College of Liberal Arts

**DR. PHILIP RHOADES**, Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of the Social Science Research Center, has received the first Felix Fabian Founder's Award from the Southwest Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ). Rhoades, who was nominated for his many accomplishments, is the only person who has been SWACJ president twice since it was founded in 1976.

He also served as Chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee and held both President and Vice President positions in the Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators organization. Rhoades' Safe Communities Safe Driving Public Education campaign has been funded by the Texas Department of Transportation for the past 12 years.

**DR. JUAN CARLOS HUERTA**, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Core Curriculum Programs, has been elected to the Council of the American Political Science Association (APSA). Huerta, who began his APSA service in 2004, currently serves as Council and Secretary-Treasurer for the Southwestern Political Science Association. Huerta has published research on the outcome of satisfactory learning environments and student learning. He plans to continue promoting programs that benefit the faculty of regional universities and community colleges through conferences and assessments of effective training. The APSA, which serves more than 15,000 members in 80 countries, is the leading professional organization for the study of political science.

**DR. JOSHUA OZYM**, Associate Professor of Political Science, recently had his article, "The Poverty of Participation: Self-Interest, Student Loans, and Student Activism," published in the journal "Political Behavior." Dr. Ozymy discussed how lower-income individuals are generally unlikely to participate in politics, even when it is in their rational self-interest to do so. The article dispels conventional findings by showing that lower-income college students who receive student loans are actually more likely to engage in policy-motivated activism out of self-interest than their higher-status peers. These findings show that lower-status individuals can be activated politically, when they have adequate resources and concrete policy motivations.







Remember your middle or high school math and science classes? The teacher stood at the blackboard or projector reciting concepts while students viewed accompanying handouts. Dr. Faye Bruun says that has to change for the next generation of students.

Bruun, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, says across the nation, teachers are having trouble maintaining enthusiasm for the STEM subjects; in fact there's a shortage of new math and science teachers brewing as well.

"If the U.S. continues this lack for STEM educators, then 90 percent of scientists and engineers will be living in Asia," said Bruun.

Surveys show that half of teens would have been more interested in STEM subjects had their teachers been more

motivating. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's College of Education is battling the shortage of professionals in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) across the state with new teaching mechanisms.

"We've got to concentrate our efforts on middle school students and get them excited about the subjects," Bruun said.

Computer games and smart boards are among the tools being developed in the College of Education to engage primary and secondary students.

"Being such a technology-driven society," Bruun said, "it's important for students to be armed with the skills to problem solve."



# Planting the Seeds for STEM Careers

## Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Efforts

- ◆ **Dr. Bruun** was appointed to the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS) advisory board located at the University of North Texas in Denton, to advise gifted high school students in STEM subjects.
- ◆ **Dr. Bruun** is also the Director of the Coastal Bend Regional Science Fair, which helps eighth grade through high school students in Corpus Christi compete in international science fairs.
- ◆ **Dr. Karen Paciotti and Annette Guerra** were named to the "Top 25 Educators in Texas" list by Online Schools Texas.
- ◆ **Dr. Denise Hill** was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Science Teachers Association of Texas (STAT).
- ◆ **Dr. Denise Hill** was chosen as a peer-reviewer for "Science and Children" published by the National Science Teacher Association.
- ◆ **Dr. JoAnn Canales** received the USDA-NIFA Supplemental Award to begin the CULTIVAR Project, addressing the need to attract outstanding, underrepresented students and prepare graduates capable of enhancing the nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce.
- ◆ **Dr. Lauren Cifuentes** co-created the Ethics Education in Science and Engineering (EASE) course to help graduate students prepare to work with others of all disciplinary backgrounds.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### DR. GUANG ZENG,

Assistant Professor  
in the Department  
of Educational  
Leadership, was  
lead author for  
the article titled  
"Integrating U.S.  
Federal Efforts

to Address the Multifaceted Problems  
of Children: A Historical Perspective on  
National Education and Child Mental  
Health Policies." The article was published  
online in December 2012 and appeared in  
the *School of Mental Health Journal*. Zeng  
examined the U.S. federal response to children's  
mental health issues as the government works  
to address the crisis in public education. The  
piece highlights the interconnectedness of  
youth violence, substance abuse, and academic  
problems. She concluded that federal efforts  
in improving children's mental health and  
academic performance should be integrated to  
achieve optimal outcomes.



### DR. FRANK SPANIOL,

Professor in the  
Department of  
Kinesiology, and  
McNair Scholar  
**Renae Hudak**  
conducted a  
study titled "An  
Evaluation of

**Visual Skills of Athletes and Non-Athletes,"**  
that found college athletes possess superior  
visual skills compared to students who do not  
play college sports. They conducted research  
on **72 NCAA Division I student-athletes**  
who played baseball, softball, and volleyball,  
and 30 students who do not play college  
sports. All subjects were between the ages of  
18–25. Visual skills were assessed using the  
**Visual Edge Performance Trainer (VEPT)**  
**software program** and included tests for  
visual alignment, depth perception, and visual  
flexibility, which were combined to formulate  
a composite VEPT score. Their finding, that  
NCAA Division I student-athletes possess  
greater visual skills when compared to non-  
athletes, supports other studies on the benefits  
of visual training in athletic performance as  
well as academic and career pursuits.





## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### VITA Program Assists Coastal Bend Families

This tax season, University student volunteers assisted low-and-middle-income families in the Coastal Bend by preparing their tax returns as part of the Internal Revenue Service's Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The annual program, a partnership

between Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the United Way of the Coastal Bend, and the IRS, offers current accounting students a monumental opportunity to acquire real hands-on tax experience while helping the taxpayers in the community. **In 2012, the VITA program prepared 2,543 returns yielding more than \$2.6 million in refunds** for the community, saving thousands of dollars in tax preparation fees and software costs.



**Dr. Jim Lee,**

Chair of the Department of Decision Sciences and Economics, has been named a Regents Professor by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. Lee teaches large lecture classes and has a record of engagement with students. He has exceeded expectations in the number of peer-reviewed publications with articles in "International Review of Economics and Finance" and "Economic Letters." Lee serves the Coastal Bend community as head of a federally-funded economic development grant associated with the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, and as a lead partner for the BoldFuture for the Coastal Bend initiative.



**Dr. Valrie Chambers,**

Professor of Accounting, has received the Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA). She was nominated for the award based on excellence in classroom teaching and her contributions to the accounting profession. Chambers developed the first eight-week version of accounting topics for the online MBA class and developed extra-curricular activities to benefit students in career development and building accounting skills.

### Four Students Advance To Business Plan Competition Finals

Four Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi students have been named as semifinalists of the Coastal Bend Business Plan Competition. In all, 15 semifinalists have advanced to Phase Two of the competition. Students that have advanced to the second phase are:

- **Anne Crago** - *The Glider Project*
- **Gabriela Linehan** - *Unmanned Submersible Aerial Vehicle*
- **Julian Vela** - *Mobile Plasma Sanitation System*
- **Brian Rudacil** - *Dual Rotor Turbine*

Semifinalists were selected based on the following criteria: the market problem, the product/service idea, the market served, the customer value, revenue generation, and the economic impact for the Coastal Bend.



## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

*Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's  
Premier Giving Organization*

The President's Council has grown to become our most prestigious private giving society. Members of the President's Council support the Presidential Scholars program, the highest-level scholarship awarded to our best and brightest students. Funds also are used for numerous annual activities and programs implemented through the President's Office which further build upon community engagement.

As a member of the President's Council, you become our partner in progress, because your support helps guide us toward the many milestones we will reach.



### MEMBER BENEFITS

Membership in the President's Council places you among individuals who continually focus their efforts on the vitality of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. You are both an advisor and a friend to the University. Throughout the year we have many events and activities in which you have the opportunity to meet with fellow President's Council members. We greatly appreciate the support of this devoted group and ensure ample recognition.

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Platinum Circle

\$10,000

Silver Circle

\$2,500

Gold Circle

\$5,000

Bronze Circle

\$1,000



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
CORPUS CHRISTI

6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5741

Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5741 361.825.2420







# An Innovation Economy

Just past the bridge over Oso Bay in Corpus Christi, a single, large building is proving to signify not only new technology, but the beginning of success for an entire community. The Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center (CBBIC) is a crossroads of education and business. More than 30 businesses at the CBBIC are getting a jump start with the unique resources in the College of Business at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi.





**"T**hese companies are developing things from helping people heal faster, to devices that orbit space crafts, and projects to eliminate pollution," said Dr. Kent Byus, Professor of Marketing and Entrepreneurship. The CBBIC is now also home to the Lone Star Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Test Site proposal development center that is working to get FAA approval for a UAS test site in Texas. The test site will provide research and development for unmanned aerial technology and is expected to become a magnet for UAS start-up companies and other related, high-tech businesses.

Bill Cone, Director of the CBBIC, say they now have five additional clients, including Arana Water Technologies and Hydro Enviro Clean, who work on water treatment to help consumers reuse, safely discard, and conserve water.

The water treatment technologies developed by companies at the CBBIC have impacted major industries in South Texas, such as those related to the Eagle Ford Shale oil and gas boom.

"We believe these technologies will allow for the reuse of water without environmental damage and could also allow the water to safely re-enter surface







# The Economic Impact of Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

water streams and impoundments,” said Cone.

With the help of the University, these companies are bringing a new job market and greater opportunities to the Coastal Bend.

“The CBBIC benefits the Coastal Bend economy immensely by giving people jobs and creating new careers and taxpayers, which is always an economic boost,” said Cone. “When people are employed and making money, they also spend money. This city will soon see an increase in the average income of families in the community.”

**See it for yourself!**  
Visit the CBBIC at [coastalbendinnovation.com](http://coastalbendinnovation.com)



## Corpus Christi Community

The direct benefit of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to the economy of Corpus Christi is estimated at \$135.4 million per year. For every 1,000 new students, the impact is \$22.4 million and 455 full-time jobs.

## Coastal Bend Region

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi boosts employment to the Coastal Bend by a total of 5,299 full-time-equivalent job positions.

## State of Texas

The total benefit of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to the Texas economy is estimated at \$406.4 million annually.





# Dean of College of Business Returns to the Classroom



After 21 years of leadership, Dr. Moustafa Abdelsamad, Dean of the College of Business, has announced he is returning to the classroom at the end of the spring 2013 semester.

"I'm proud of our accomplishments at the College of Business over the last two decades and feel this is a great time for me to go back to the faculty,"

said Dr. Abdelsamad. "I'm excited about spending more time one-on-one with our students."

Dr. Abdelsamad has overseen tremendous growth and achievement in the College of Business. During his tenure as dean, he helped launch an online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, coordinated the creation of the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center, and oversaw the college's move into the new Michael and Karen O'Connor building. He also made Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi the home of the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM).

"We're grateful for Dr. Abdelsamad's many years of service at the helm of College of Business and look forward to his continued contributions as he returns to his first love, working directly with students," said Dr. Flavius Kille-

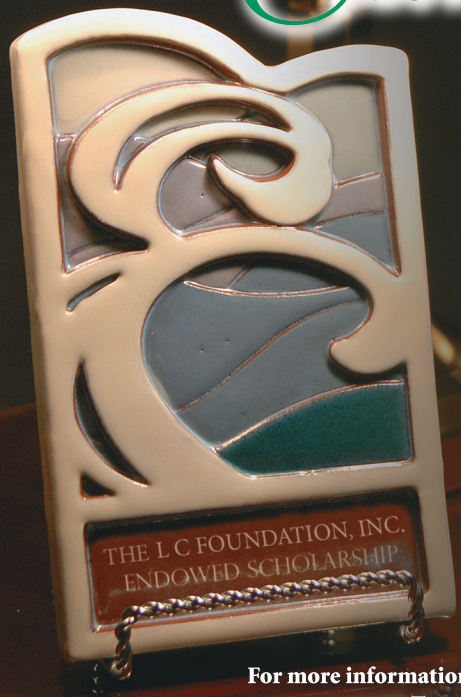
brew, President and CEO of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Most notably, Abdelsamad led the faculty to achieve and maintain accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) for both the business and accounting programs, a feat less than one percent of the world's business schools have achieved.

"Thanks to the foundation Dr. Abdelsamad has laid, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is on pace to become a leading university on the world stage for the study of business, not only at the undergraduate level, but at the graduate level," said Dr. Chris Markwood, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The University will begin a national search for his successor with plans to fill the position sometime during the summer of 2013.

## Endowed Scholarship Council



*Lena D. Coleman, founder and CEO of The L C Foundation, Inc., recently established an endowment to help fund student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and activities and programs implemented through the President's Office.*

*Creating a scholarship endowment is one way to ensure your contribution will remain in perpetuity to support higher education and to help the University remain competitive in attracting the brightest students.*

*In recognition of donors making significant contributions to endowed scholarships, the University established the Endowed Scholarship Council. Donors with cumulative gifts to endowed scholarship funds of \$50,000 or more are inducted into the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Endowed Scholarship Council and recognized at the annual Endowed Scholarship Banquet.*



For more information about the Endowed Scholarship Council or other giving opportunities contact  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi • 6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5741  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5741 • (361) 825-2420



# We've got **TEXAS** **COVERED**



*Whether* **HELPING TO INCREASE NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY ALONG THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL OR CONDUCTING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TRAINING OVER SOUTH TEXAS RANGLANDS, THE ISLAND UNIVERSITY IS DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS FOR THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS.**



**“WE’RE NOT ONLY PART OF SEVERAL LARGE, STATEWIDE EFFORTS, BUT WE ARE THE LEADING INSTITUTION ON THESE PROJECTS,” SAID DR. LUIS CIFUENTES, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, COMMERCIALIZATION AND OUTREACH, WHO IS LEADING A VARIETY OF PROJECTS IN THE UNIVERSITY’S FIVE COLLEGES AND 13 CENTERS OF RESEARCH. “OUR PRIMARY MISSION IS TO SERVE AS A KEY PARTNER FOR IMPORTANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR REGION.”**

Professors and students are focusing on cutting-edge technologies that, together with burgeoning Texas companies, can become the economic engines of tomorrow. It’s no surprise that Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, situated on the Texas Gulf Coast is reaching excellence in the fields of renewable energy, unmanned aircraft systems, marine science, and marine technology.

Last November, the Coastal Conservation Association committed funds to establish, within the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI), the first research center for the study of sportfish in the Western Gulf of Mexico.

The University is also leading a statewide effort to persuade the Federal Aviation Administration to designate Texas as a test range for technologies that will allow large and small unmanned aircraft to operate safely in the national airspace.

“We’ve spent much of our effort in UAS technology, which is a new industry that has the potential to create more jobs and generate more revenue throughout the state,” Cifuentes says.

State Rep. Todd Hunter, who has witnessed the development of these initiatives, says, “Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is a growing force in Texas for research and positive economic impact for our State. The University is highlighting how higher education and the Texas economy can work together.”

Hunter and State Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa provided legislative support for the creation and continued development of the Mechanical Engineering Program, the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, and the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center. Each of these efforts is strategically focused on producing highly-skilled employees and a new generation of entrepreneurs in Texas.

Over the next four years, Cifuentes said the University’s focus will be developing additional laboratory and research centers. Among these is the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Synthesis and Solutions Center to be established within the HRI.

“The center will be dedicated to transdisciplinary, solutions-based research that can provide decision makers with comprehensive analysis on timely

issues like coastal sea-level rise and environmental disasters like oil and chemical spills,” says Dr. Larry McKinney, Executive Director of the Harte Research Institute.

But the University’s efforts extend beyond the skies and the sea; areas such as cyber security and plasma engineering are proving to be important frontiers for innovation. The University is looking into the potential for new genetics and genomics core laboratories; and a special home for the significant growth of the Innovation in Computing Research Labs (iCORE). Burak Ersoy, an iCORE senior research assistant, is building partnerships with Corpus Christi Independent School District, Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, and the Nueces County Community Supervision & Corrections Department to enhance their services to the community.

**See it for yourself!**  
Visit [theislander.tamucc.edu](http://theislander.tamucc.edu)



**Researchers with the University’s UAS Initiative launch the RS-16 unmanned aerial vehicle over South Texas ranchland to test the capabilities of this new technology.**



## UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS ADDRESSING TEXAS' MOST CHALLENGING ISSUES

### THE PLASMA ENGINEERING RESEARCH LAB (PERL)

**Dr. Magesh Thiyagarajan** and his research team have made significant progress in developing a portable cold plasma medical device. The team is testing on infection and cancer treatment. This cold plasma technology research can open multiple avenues for a range of other potential bio-medical applications in civilian and combat care, such as hemorrhage control, wounds healing, infection treatment, dermatology, surgical sterilization, drug delivery, and food processing.

### THE COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES (CONHS)

Through collaboration with the Medical Education and Training Command in San Antonio, the CONHS is offering the eLine Military Program (ELM) to help enlisted women and men with previous medical training and experience in the Army, Navy, and Air Force become registered nurses through competency-based online instruction that provides access to a full curriculum for the BSN degree. This innovative program, which has been recognized by the White House, can be used as a model for other academic institutions around the nation.

This effort will help develop effective academic pathways for veterans and bring nursing education opportunities to a new and largely untapped group of people who are both interested and experienced in health care, increasing diversity in the nursing workforce.

### THE CONRAD BLUCHER INSTITUTE (CBI)

The CBI manages the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON), a state-of-the-art water-level measurement system that allows the state of Texas to establish shoreline boundaries, measure sea level rise, support modeling efforts of state agencies, and overall, provide information to better manage coastal ecosystems and resources. TCOON includes data collection stations in two of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's PORTS systems; the Ports of Houston/Galveston and Sabine.

The CBI is the only endowed institute in its field in the nation dedicated to supporting the professions of land surveyor and geospatial analyst through education and research.

### DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

The University's School Mathematics Project provides professional development for secondary mathematics teachers in the Coastal Bend using funding from the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Dr. Sarah Ives** and **Dr. Joe Champion** led a workshop supported by the Sid Richardson Foundation which helped 36 local teachers gain specialized knowledge needed to effectively teach middle school and high school mathematics.



“TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI IS A GROWING FORCE IN TEXAS FOR RESEARCH AND POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR OUR STATE. THE UNIVERSITY IS HIGHLIGHTING HOW HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE TEXAS ECONOMY CAN WORK TOGETHER.”

STATE REP. TODD HUNTER

Investigators at the Harte Research Institute are one of several groups on campus using remotely-operated vehicles to conduct underwater studies. Mechanical Engineering professors are also training students on how to create and operate this technology.



# Students FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE STATE FIND SUCCESS ON THE ISLAND

## MAYRA GARCIA •

*English M.A. Graduate Student*  
Hometown: Rio Grande City, Texas

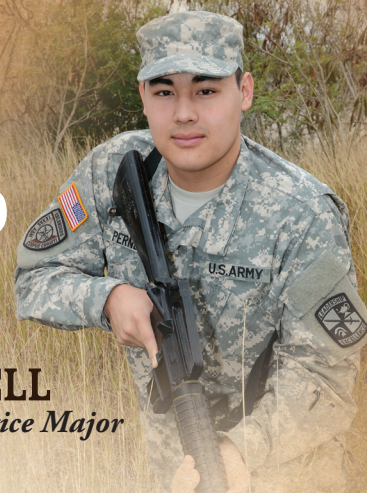
*Garcia is a McNair Scholar, who has presented at conferences at the University of California, Berkeley, and Loyola University Maryland. Garcia is a graduate teaching assistant for the English Department.*



## • MICHAEL PERNELL

*Freshman Criminal Justice Major*  
Hometown: San Antonio

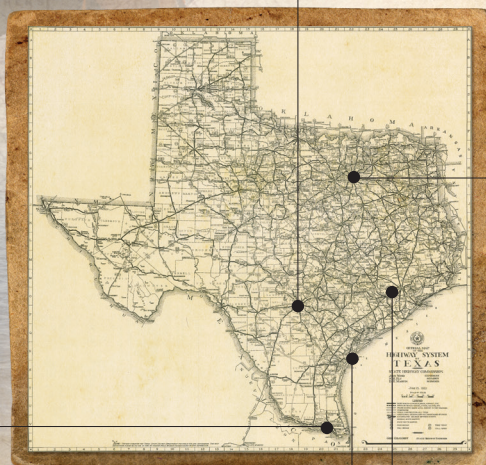
*Pernell is an Islander Battalion ROTC cadet who received a 3½ year scholarship in spring 2013. He is an avid intramural sports player, and is a member of basketball and football intramural sport teams. Pernell also volunteers for Homeless Angels in his hometown.*



## NICHOLAS HUNT •

*Junior Marine Biology Major*  
Hometown: Katy, Texas

*Hunt is committed to finding ways to develop biofuels made from algae to help the nation maintain a cleaner environment. Hunt serves as president of Beta Beta Beta, the biological honors society. Hunt is a research assistant for Dr. Joe Fox in the Aquatic Nutrition and Algal Biofuel Lab.*



## LYNN GROSS RN-MSN Graduate Student

Hometown: Plano, Texas

*Gross, a Neonatal Provider Instructor, was accepted into the Nurse Practitioner Program nearly a year ago, and began her studies with the University Bridge Program. Gross is working on this degree to be more knowledgeable in the field of labor and delivery. Gross was a recent presenter at the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Conference.*



## JENNIFER HOANG •

*Senior HR Management Major, Sociology Minor*  
Hometown: Rockport, Texas

*Hoang is the president of the Honors Student Association and has helped plan an array of student events including symposia and an honors ball. Hoang is also affiliated with Colleges Against Cancer, and is heavily involved with projects that benefit the community.*





# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE *and* ENGINEERING

## UNIVERSITY 'FLIPS THE SWITCH' ON RECORD-BREAKING VERTICAL-AXIS WIND TURBINE INSTALLATION

University President Flavius Killebrew officially "flipped the switch" in September to turn on eight, 20-kilowatt vertical-axis wind turbines, which comprise the largest vertical-axis wind turbine installation of its kind in the United States. The site at the main campus also includes a small, 4-kilowatt wind turbine, which can be lowered horizontally and opened for education and research. The 20-kilowatt wind turbines are also the largest of their kind in the continental U.S. In all, three Texas A&M-Corpus Christi locations will showcase a total of 11 wind turbines with a combined total capacity of 92 kilowatts. The turbines have real-time data collection for faculty and students in engineering the program to analyze on a network.



## HRI REPORTS FIRST CONFIRMED SPOTTING OF VENOMOUS LIONFISH ALONG MID-TEXAS COAST

Harte Research Institute scientists have captured the first documented video confirmation that the lionfish, a new non-native marine predator, may pose a threat to the ecology of the waters along the Texas coast. The venomous marine fish, previously found mostly in the western Pacific Ocean, has been appearing in the Caribbean since the 1980s. While lionfish are becoming increasingly sighted around the Gulf of Mexico, most previous reports have come from areas east of Louisiana. Because these predators have few natural enemies, lionfish may negatively impact native species in the newly-invaded ecosystems. The lionfish video was shot by a Remotely-Operated Vehicle (ROV) at an artificial reef located about 40 miles southeast of Port Aransas.

See it for yourself!  
Visit [theislander.tamucc.edu](http://theislander.tamucc.edu)



## BP CONTRIBUTES OIL SKIMMING VESSEL TO THE UNIVERSITY

A state-of-the-art skimmer vessel that can be used to train qualified responders and assist with the cleanup of mid-size oil spills is the showpiece of a more than \$280,000 contribution from BP to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. The Kvichak 30-foot Harbor Class Rapid Response Vehicle was commissioned by BP for clean-up operations following the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico. The Kvichak Harbor Class is considered the most effective oil skimming vessel available, with more than 70 in service on every continent except Antarctica. Once on the site of a spill, it can remove up to 427 barrels of oil per hour. The University's National Spill Control School expects to ultimately become an approved training facility for the Kvichak Harbor Class skimmers.



Tony Wood, Director of the National Spill Control School, and President Flavius Killebrew arrive on the skimmer vessel at the Corpus Christi Municipal Marina.



## NEW RESEARCH SHIP ADVANCES STUDY OF GULF OF MEXICO

Scientists with the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) and the College of Science and Engineering studied the oceanography of the South Texas coast, including influences on the distribution of red tide while aboard the R/V Falkor in October. The study was one of many research projects conducted by the group on the 272-foot oceanographic research vessel outfitted with some of the most sophisticated scientific instruments in the world. The R/V Falkor was provided by the Schmidt Ocean Institute free of charge for two cruise legs in September and October.

**DR. LUIS CIFUENTES**, Vice President of the Division of Research, Commercialization and Outreach, presented during the 2012 Biennial Meeting of the Pan American Academy of Engineering held in October in Mexico City, Mexico. Cifuentes spoke about the National Science Foundation (NSF) program, research coordination network (RCN) – Climate, Energy, Environment and Engagement in Semiarid Regions (CE3SAR), which Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is leading. He also discussed the critical need to better communicate the meaning of climate change science to local and regional publics. During the meeting, Cifuentes served on a climate change panel with Dr. Mario Molina, Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry.

## OYSTER SHELL RECYCLING PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD

The Shell Bank Oyster Shell Recycling Program, developed by Dr. Jennifer Pollack, Assistant Professor of Marine Biology, has received the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR) “Closing the Loop” Environmental Leadership Award. The award recognizes people and programs that demonstrate extensive recycling efforts and waste diversion tactics that benefit the state of Texas. The Oyster Recycling program began in November 2009 and makes weekly deposits of oyster shells into the bay. To date, more than 220,000 pounds of oyster shells have been collected from local restaurants, dried in the sun, and reintroduced in the coastal system.

**DR. PAUL ZIMBA**, Director of the Center for Coastal Studies, has co-authored the National Academy of Science’s report on “Sustainable Development of Algal Biofuels in the United States.” Zimba worked with 15 scientists from across the nation to develop the report, which analyzes how biofuels made from algae could help meet the nation’s energy demands, and their potential effects on coastal communities. The report also raises concerns associated with increasing the production of biofuels made from algae, including use of more energy, water, and nutrients.

**Dr. LEE SMEE**, Associate Professor of Life Science, has received the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation (CBBF) Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Award in Education. Smees was honored for his continuous mentoring efforts to both undergraduate and graduate student researchers and for his courses at the University. His lab students have participated in an outreach program for the Life Science Club at Tuloso-Midway High School in Corpus Christi since 2008. Dr. Smees also works with youth as a Cub Scout leader. The Conservation & Environmental Stewardship Awards Program recognizes and honors outstanding Coastal Bend citizens, educators, businesses, governing bodies, and other entities that have made significant contributions to the protection of the natural resources, habitats, and native species of the Coastal Bend.



Students and professors look at data collection aboard the Research Vessel Falkor



Dr. Stacey Lyle assists in the operation of a remotely-operated vehicle during one of two expeditions on the Falkor, a ship with technology only a select group of researchers can access.



**DR. PAUL MONTAGNA**, Endowed Chair for Ecosystems Studies and Modeling in the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, was lead author for the book titled “Hydrological Changes and Estuarine Dynamics.” The book, which represents a culmination of nearly 25 years of work on freshwater inflow issues, has been published by the ‘Springer Briefs in Environmental Science’ series, Volume 8 (2013). Montagna and co-authors Terence Palmer, Research Associate for the Harte Research Institute and Dr. Jennifer Pollack, Assistant Professor of Marine Biology, discuss specific programs that set goals to protect ecosystem resources and monitor key indicators over time to ensure that these goals are appropriate and resources are protected.



A community “Sink Your Shucks” event brings high school students, college students, researchers and other volunteers to Goose Island State Park; in an effort to rebuild habitats with recycled oysters from Corpus Christi restaurants.



## CONRAD BLUCHER INSTITUTE CONSTRUCTS DATA COLLECTION STATION ON USS LEXINGTON

The Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI) installed a new data collection station on the dock of the USS Lexington to help ensure coastal monitoring and assist in hurricane preparedness. The new \$100,000 data collection system is one of the 31 Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) systems installed along the Texas Coast. All TCOON data collection stations meet scientific guidelines established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS).



Brian Lorentson, research technician at the CBI, inspects the inside of the station that provides accurate, federally-approved data used in water level and storm surge forecasting.



The new monitoring station is being installed approximately 25 feet above sea level to protect equipment from high-water events such as storm surges, which have historically damaged or destroyed data collection systems.

## CONRAD BLUCHER INSTITUTE DEVELOPS MOBILE APP TO INCREASE NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY

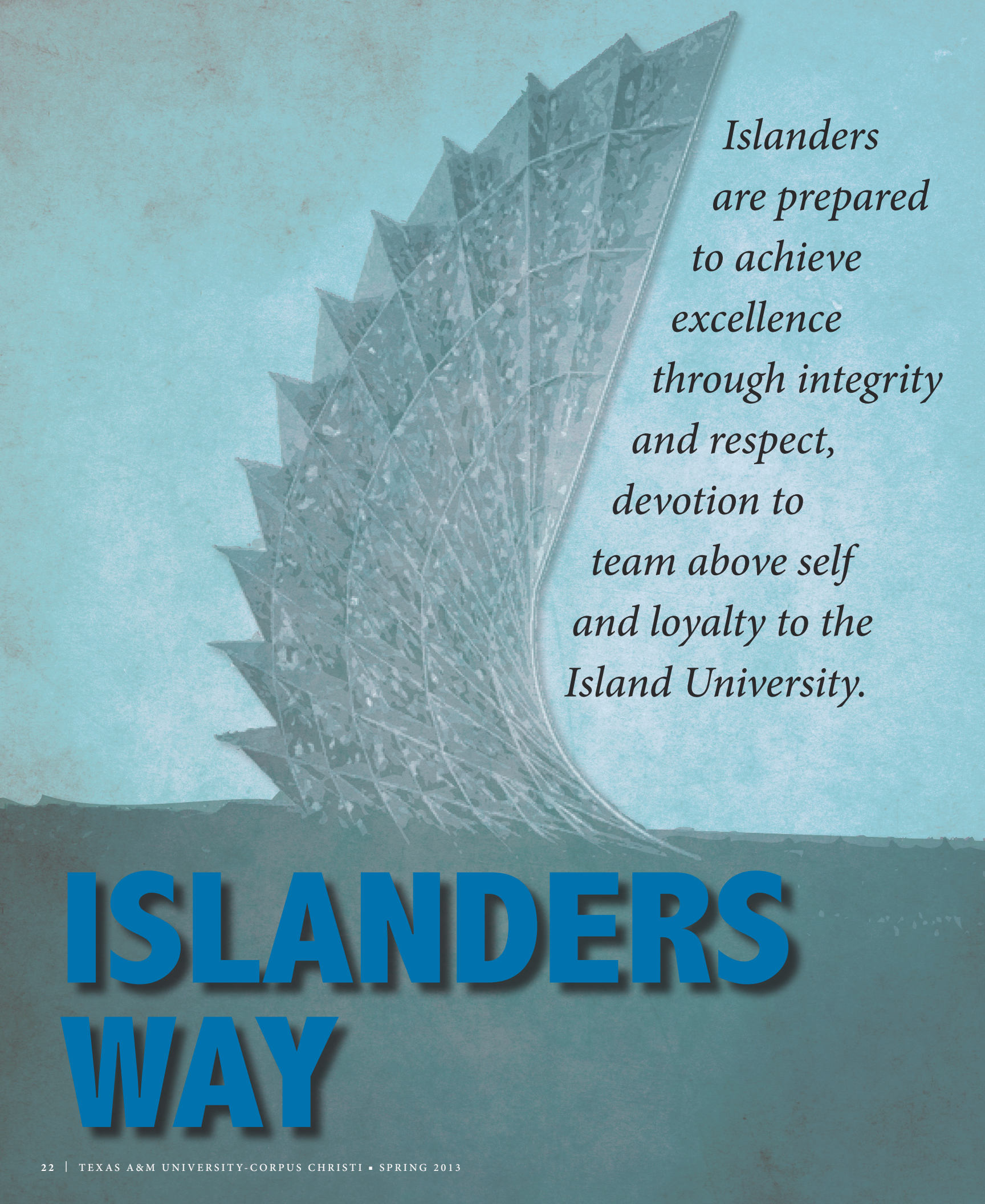
Researchers at the Conrad Blucher Institute (CBI) have designed and are implementing the new "Transit Time!" mobile app to provide ship captains and pilots with real-time predictions of ocean water levels and currents along the Houston Ship Channel. The app will provide invaluable safety information which could reduce both the number of vessel collisions and the number of ships becoming grounded due to insufficient water depth. The app, now available for mobile devices, smartphones, and desktop devices, will benefit the commercial navigation community, while future extensions of the app will help a broader base of coastal users.



Maps on the "Transit Time!" mobile app, such as the one above, indicate the precise conditions along each section of the channel.

Download the app at: <http://apps.proto.cbi.tamucc.edu/transit>





*Islanders  
are prepared  
to achieve  
excellence  
through integrity  
and respect,  
devotion to  
team above self  
and loyalty to the  
Island University.*

# ISLANDERS WAY



# TENETS OF THE ISLANDERS WAY

## PREPARED

“If you are prepared, you will be confident, and will do the job.” —Tom Landry

## INTEGRITY

Integrity is the ability to execute moral convictions.

- One that walks with integrity upholds the truth.
- Integrity is seen in a person's actions, not words.

## RESPECT

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule.

- Be tolerant and accepting of differences.
- Use good manners, not bad language.
- Be considerate of the feelings of others.

## DEVOTION

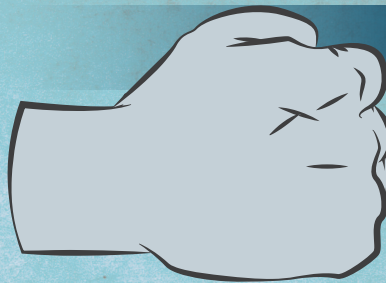
Hold the team above self, sacrificing individual recognition for the betterment of all.

## LOYALTY

Be loyal to your peers, respect for the past, and imbuing future generations with practice of the Islanders Way.

## TRADITION THE SHAKA

### STEP 1



Make a fist with the back of your hand facing out.

### STEP 2

Put your thumb up.



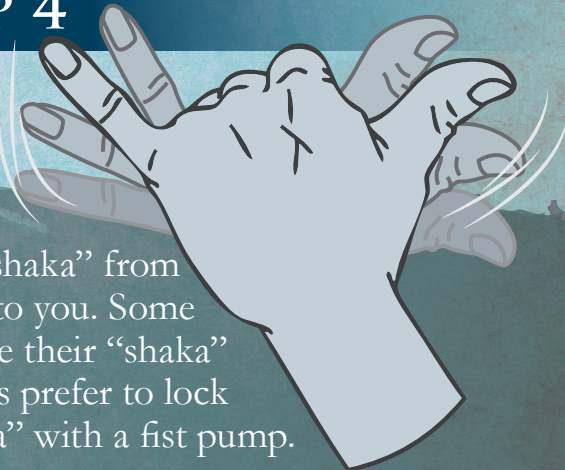
### STEP 3

Put your pinky out.



### STEP 4

How you “shaka” from there is up to you. Some like to shake their “shaka” while others prefer to lock their “shaka” with a fist pump.



### HOW 'YOU “SHAKA”?



Share your “shaka” with us on Facebook at /islanduniversity



# 2013 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

The following awards are the highest honor Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi can bestow upon an alumnus. The awards are given to those alumni who, through their distinction in their chosen field, service to society, and dedication and loyalty to the University, exemplify the core values of *Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service.*

## Outstanding Alumnus Petra A. Martinez, '91, '04

Martinez currently serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, a position she has held since 2000. Martinez, who holds numerous certifications and specialized training, is a faculty mentor and a CAREER Mentor for the University's College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) and is a CPR Instructor for Kindred Hospital in Corpus Christi. She serves in more than a dozen professional societies and committees and has been selected as a speaker for nearly 20 organizations. In 2010, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Alumni Association honored her with the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award representing the CONHS. She is President of the University's Anchor Alumni Club, serves as a faculty advisor for Colleges Against Cancer and Relay for Life, and volunteers for numerous organizations.



## Young Alumnus Mariaha E. Pedder, '04

After graduating in 2004, Pedder was recruited by KBR, a government contractor, for a one-year assignment in Iraq, where she discovered her path as a Human Relations professional. Pedder is currently a Relocation Services Coordinator for KBR in Houston. From 2005-2008, she worked with the company in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as an HR Senior Travel Coordinator – Expatriate Assignment. Before returning to the U.S., she received an Honorable Recognition for supporting her KBR contractors in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Pedder is team captain for KBR's IMPACT organization, a network of developing professionals within the industry. She volunteers with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Meals on Wheels in San Antonio, and several other charities. Pedder also serves as an Executive Board Member for the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Houston Alumni Chapter, and coordinates several chapter events.

## Distinguished Alumnus Dr. Anne Michelle Wood, '73

Wood, Professor of Biology at the University of Oregon, helped create the field of picoplankton ecology in ocean sciences. She was also among the first to publish on *Prochlorococcus* organisms in the ocean. Dr. Wood has been working with experts in ocean color and remote sensing to develop the field of "optical biogeography." This will allow for better understanding of conditions that might lead to harmful algal blooms, better monitoring of the response of the coastal ocean to climate change, and provide an enhanced support of fisheries. Dr. Wood was recognized for her service to NOAA as Director of the Ocean Chemistry Division and for service during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. She has served on the Board of Directors for the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, and as Doherty Chair of Oceanography for the Sea Education Association.





# FRIENDS OF ENGINEERING

The “Friends of Engineering” Award at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi honors the outstanding achievements of supporters for the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Honorees are chosen for their significant impact on the development and continued excellence of the facilities, faculty and students.

## Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa



As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa helped Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi secure \$45 million in funding for Island Hall, which is home to the University’s Nursing, Health Sciences, and Kinesiology programs. He has also worked to protect institutional enhancement funding and was instrumental in securing a special item request that has allowed for the development of the Mechanical Engineering Program. During the 82nd legislative session in 2011, when funding for special items was cut, he was able to restore \$500,000 for the Engineering Program.

## Rep. Todd A. Hunter



State Rep. Todd Hunter serves as the Chairman of the Calendars Committee for the Texas House of Representatives. In the last session, when cuts to Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, including the Engineering Program, were considered, Chairman Hunter made arrangements for the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee to meet with University President Flavius Killebrew to discuss what those cuts would mean for the campus programs. Hunter’s legislative support made possible the creation and continued development of the Mechanical Engineering Program, the School of Engineering and Computing Sciences, and the Coastal Bend Business Innovation Center.

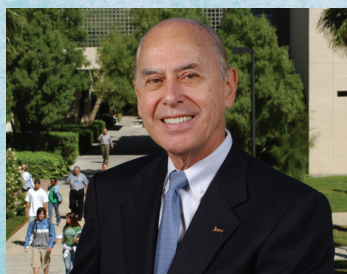
“As we continue on this path of growth, we’re careful to never forget the community effort it has taken to build this 21st century university.” University President Flavius Killebrew

## Bernard A. Paulson



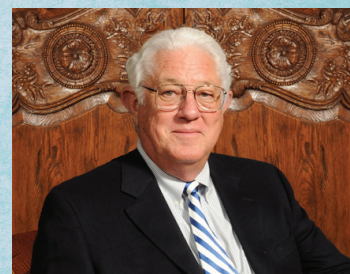
For more than two decades, Bernard A. Paulson has advocated for the creation of an engineering program that would attract top corporations to the Coastal Bend. Since he retired in 1988 as President of Koch Refining Company and Vice President of the parent company, Koch Industries, he has owned several companies. He is currently Chairman of the Board of TOR Minerals International, Inc.; Past President of the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Foundation; has served on numerous volunteer boards; and generously contributes to Texas A&M–Corpus Christi.

## Dr. Robert R. Furgason



Dr. Robert R. Furgason, who served as Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi President from 1990 to 2004, became the first Director of the Harte Research Institute. During that time, he established engineering technology programs which laid the foundation to establish the Mechanical Engineering Program. As head of the HRI, Furgason helped bring leading oceanic experts from the academic, governmental, and private sectors to Corpus Christi for the first State of the Gulf of Mexico Conference in 2005. He and his wife, Gloria, led fundraising efforts to expand the South Texas Institute for the Arts and to build the University’s \$18 million Performing Arts Center.

## Larry J. Urban



Larry J. Urban, chief project engineer and co-founder of Urban Engineering, co-chaired Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi’s highly-successful Momentum Campaign with his wife, Karen. The campaign has provided funds for facilities, equipment, and scholarships. Urban is a member of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. He received the 2010 G. Russell Kirkland Distinguished Visitor in Business Administration Award, presented by the College of Business at Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, for his contributions to the success of students, faculty, the University, and the community.



# ATHLETIC HONOR HALL

Shadrack  
Songok

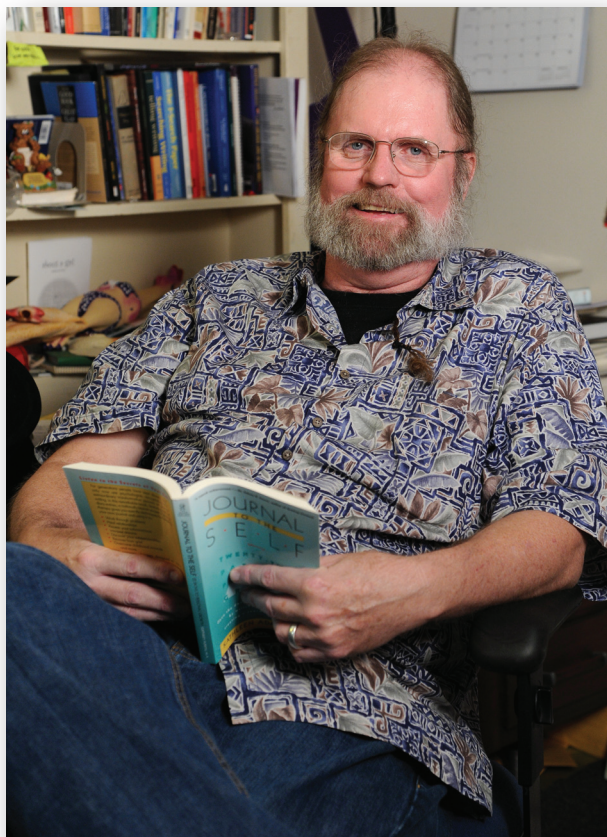
Shadrack Songok won three NCAA Track and Field National Championships, two outdoor (10k in 2007 & 2008) and one indoor (5k in 2008) during his time as an Islander, becoming the first National Champion in Islanders lore. He competed twice at the Cross Country National Championships and earned All-America honors, finishing 19th in 2006 and seventh in 2007. The seventh-place finish marked the highest finish by an athlete from the Southland Conference in league history. The Kapsabet, Kenya, native broke Southland Conference records in the indoor 5,000-meter run and outdoor 5,000-meter run along with the 10,000-meter run.

Terra  
Andrews

Terra Andrews led the Islanders to the 2005 Women's National Invitation Tournament and helped the team finish with a school best 23-7 record during the 2004-05 season, including the Independent Championship. Andrews earned Division I Independent Women's Basketball Player of the Year and First Team honors three times (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06.) She was tabbed Division I Independent Women's Basketball Second Team (2002-03.)

Andrews currently holds the Islanders career record for points with 1,550 and is second in rebounds with 815.





# DR. ROBB JACKSON

## IN MEMORIAM

A member of our faculty since 1988, he wrote several books of poetry and enriched the lives of countless students, colleagues, and area residents through his extraordinary teaching, wisdom, public service, and faith. In addition, Dr.

Jackson was a leading figure in the creation and implementation of the University Core Curriculum Program, the first-year writing program, the English MA, and the creative writing minor.

*Below are some comments on Facebook from former students upon hearing about the loss.*



**Mfree Black** I had Dr. Jackson in the early 90s and have remembered him and all that he taught vividly over the years. He was a wonderful professor with many interesting stories to tell. I am so sad to hear of this loss.

February 26 at 5:12pm · Like · 1



**Bernardo Vargas** I will always laugh at the thought of Dr. Jackson saying "Thank you for shopping at the island university, wave of the future!" as class ended. He influenced my perspective on writing and Truth with his humor and kindness. He will be missed.

February 26 at 8:37pm via mobile · Edited · Like · 3

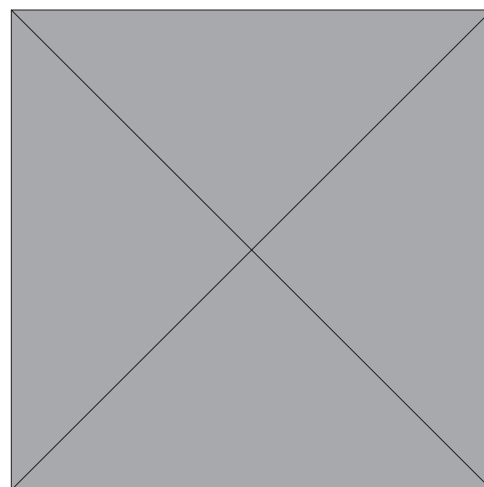
# RUTH SCHOTT O'BRIEN

## IN MEMORIAM

Ruth Schott O'Brien, who started a campus herbarium of South Texas botanical specimens and served as its curator for nearly 30 years, died Dec. 26, 2012. She was 91. O'Brien donated generously to the University through time and money. O'Brien and her husband, Joseph, moved to Corpus Christi in 1949. Ruth later discovered her interest in wild plants and taxonomy, and earned a Master of Science in Biology in 1980 from Corpus Christi State University. A year later, the alumnus set up the University herbarium and became its curator in 1983. The Ruth O'Brien Herbarium, which houses more than 1,500 Coastal Bend plant specimens, is located in the Carlos F. Truan Natural Resources Center.



**Inspiring "once in a lifetime" performances...  
on the field and in the classroom.**



Your support enables more than 200 athletes to excel in the classroom and on the courts, in the fields and over the fairways. Becoming a member of the Islander Athletic Fund is the ideal way to benefit from your support of Islander Intercollegiate Athletics. Members enjoy numerous benefits including priority seating and parking, newsletters, special event invitations, and opportunities to promote the Islander spirit.

Call 361.825.3237 or visit [giving.tamucc.edu](http://giving.tamucc.edu)



# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Visit  
**islandernetwork.com**  
to share your milestones  
with fellow alumni.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**A Lauren Loveless De La Garza '09 BA Marketing and '11 MBA General Business** married Ernest De La Garza on Dec. 15, 2012. They exchanged vows at First Baptist Church in Portland, Texas, in a Christmas themed ceremony. She has been a Category Specialist with Susser Holdings/Stripes since May 2011.

**B Anthony Ciccarelli '07 BBA Management** traveled for two years after college to focus on marketing his invention, High Pheels (pronounced peels). He plans to launch his shoe line through retail stores and other online venues. He is also giving back through Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Achieve Partnership Program.

**Seth Thompson '11 MBA General Business** married Allison Fisseler in Galveston, Texas, on Oct. 27, 2012. They spent their honeymoon touring the Highlands of Scotland.

**Craig Robert Parker '09 BBA General Business** married Zarah Jean Gourlay on Aug. 18, 2012.

**William N. Harry '83 BBA Management** has been working and living in Mexico for a year now. He is in charge of after sales with Chrysler de Mexico. He says it has been a good experience and others should come on down and visit. His wife, Stacy, lives with him part time and part time in their home in Flower Mound, Texas. They have two children who both attend Texas Tech University.

**Jennifer Brackeen '10 BBA General Business** is living in the Pacific Northwest, which has been a great adventure for her and her family. The family has snow skied in the Cascade Mountains, hiked in the Olympia National Forest, and dug clams from the icy Pacific Ocean. She works for an organization whose mission is

to improve community health through collective planning and action of health care leaders.

**Brittany Alexis Fowler '07 BBA Marketing** works for the Corpus Christi Fire Department.

**Brandon Rust '09 BBA General Business** accepted a new position as a Fixed Asset Accountant in September 2012 with FMC Technologies in Stephenville, Texas. Prior to this, he worked as an Accountant on contract with Apple, Inc.

**Anna B. Leal '81 BBA Accounting** has retired from Houston Endowment, a philanthropic foundation.

**Lori B. Garza '07 BBA Management and Gerald Garza '07 BBA Economics** are first-time parents to a beautiful baby girl, Arissa Paisley, born October 3.

**Patrick Gruber '99 BBA Management Information Systems** is a Business Solution Analyst with Kinder Morgan in Houston, Texas, after working for a decade in the medical device field. He lives in Missouri City, Texas, with his wife and two children.

**Chelsea Childress '10 BSBS Health Sciences and '12 MBA General Business** graduated in December 2012 with a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Health Care Administration. She is a Program Specialist with the ELITE Graduate Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

**Alisha Robertson '04 BBA Management** has founded The Kikulu Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports education for children in Uganda. She lives in North Texas and travels around Texas to raise awareness on the educational needs of children in developing countries.







**Richard Runyan '74 BBA Management** and his wife, Donna, are still traveling. This past year, they drove to Philadelphia to visit Donna's mom and dad. This past October, Richard and Donna attended Richard's 50 Year Reunion from W.B. Ray High School in Corpus Christi. This past Thanksgiving, they went on a seven-day cruise out of Galveston, Texas.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Lillie Hinojosa Hebert '68 BS Elementary Education** is a Primary Teacher serving on the Cook Elementary School P.T.A. Board. She is also the Assembly Chairperson, and serves on the Budget Committee for her school.

**Dawn D. Davison-Marshall '08 BS Occupational Training and Development and '11 MS Special Education** loves the new chapter in her life. She married her best friend on Aug. 11, 2012.

**Brenda Ellen Whitfield '82 BS Elementary Education** is working at Cuero Independent School District as the Project Director for Safe Schools and Healthy Students.

**Juadeen Harper Howard '62 BS Elementary Education** recently moved to Burnet, Texas, in the Hill Country. She is retired after teaching 42 years and loving it.

**Francisco Rodriguez '96 MS Curriculum and Instruction-Reading Specialist** was recently ordained as a deacon of the Roman Catholic Church, and is currently the Director of Religious Education at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Flour Bluff, Texas. In August, he retired from the Corpus Christi Independent School District after 29 years in education.

**Virginia "Ginger" Payne Henry '75 BS Elementary Education and '81 MS Curriculum and Instruction** lives in Victoria, Texas, and is enjoying her retirement after 35 years as a teacher and principal. She currently serves on the Devereux Advisory Board, volunteers as a surrogate parent for five children, and works with student teachers at the University of Houston. She also enjoys spending time with her six grandchildren.

**Eric Pattengill '12 MS Educational Technology** landed his dream job last year. He gives thanks to: Corpus Christi Army Depot for believing in him, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi for educating him, the Veterans Affairs GI Bill for funding him, CompTIA for certifying him, and his wife and family for supporting him.

**Brenda Velazquez Lee Samudio '83 BS Secondary Education, '89 MA Interdisciplinary Studies, and '91 MS Educational Administration** has been busy helping educate others. She currently teaches physics and chemistry to underprivileged youth in El Paso, Texas. By integrating her fine arts skills into the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curriculum, she keeps her students engaged in science. Being in the military, the Samudio family will move again this summer.

**Barbara Enloe '90 BS Elementary Education** volunteers at the Early Childhood Center and elementary schools in Flour Bluff Independent School District.

**Leslie Balerio '03 BS Kinesiology and '09 MS Curriculum and Instruction** is the new Head of the Science Department at Sinton High School, in Sinton, Texas. She is also the Head Softball Coach and new Head Cross Country Coach. She is also a first-time mom to a handsome baby boy, Kai.



**Stephen Flaherty '71 BS Health and Physical Education** organized a reunion in October 2012 for the people of Sigma Pi who attended the University of Corpus Christi between 1966 – 1974. The reunion was attended by more than 40 people. The group toured the campus and spent three days and four nights reminiscing about the best days of their lives. This was the second time Steve arranged such a reunion. The first reunion was held in spring 2003. This submission and many thanks are courtesy of Joseph Piegari '70 BS History.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Gene Goble '75 BA Psychology** lives in Fort Collins, Colo. He stays busy writing Christian books, traveling, and spending time with 10 children and 14 grandchildren.

**Valton Dean Krantz II '01 BA History** has been married for one year. He completed his master's degree in Education Administration in 2009 from Concordia University. Now he plans on working toward principalship of a school.

**Joe F. Howard '63 BA Speech and Drama** and wife, Juadeen, retired in 2003 and moved to Burnet, Texas. They love the Hill Country.

**Veronica Ramirez '01 BA Music** made her directorial debut for Laredo Theater Guild International (LTGI) in summer 2012 by directing Rodger's and Hammerstein's "Cinderella." In the fall, she portrayed the Maid in "Blood Wedding/Bodas De Sangre" by Spanish playwright and poet, Federico Garcia Lorca. This production was presented in both English and Spanish. She is Assistant Producer with LTGI's Class on Stage series production of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."



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**Carla Daws '86 BA Communication and '99 MBA General Business** is a Yoga Teacher with Live Well Fitness in Kyle, Texas. She is a graduate of the Living Yoga Program and is certified with the Independent Yoga Network. She has been teaching yoga since 2009.

**Linda Landreth '95 BA Psychology and '99 MS Counseling** is retired. She enjoys her grandchildren, projects on the computer, and reading. This spring, Linda and her husband, Gordon, plan to return to Italy. She says they didn't stay long enough the first time. They visited her grandparents' villages while they were there, too.

**Elissa Decker Johnson '06 BA Communication** recently moved back to Corpus Christi with her husband, **Nathan Johnson '06 BBA Marketing**, after spending a year in Southern California. Elissa is a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative, and Nathan (College of Business graduate) works with Boston Scientific in the Neuromodulation Division. They just purchased a home on the island and look forward to a fantastic 2013 with their three dogs!

**Gregory Lee Diehlman '05 BS Criminal Justice** is still pursuing his Doctorate in Public Affairs with a concentration in Criminal Justice. He is a big fan of the Cincinnati Reds and the Indiana Hoosiers, but his main concern is with our criminal justice system and how it pertains to the average citizen.

**Heidi Rae Huseman '04 BA Communication** graduated with her Master of Arts in Communication Studies from Texas State University in 2006 and has been living in Austin, Texas. For the last four years, she has been working full time as a Wedding Photographer. She loves every aspect of her job and is especially proud of being a business owner.

**Pamela K. Carter Berry '88 BA Communications** has relocated

to Albuquerque, N.M., due to the employment reassignment of her spouse. She is organizing their new home and trying to acclimate to the high desert air. She remains a missionary of her beloved Texas and the Islanders.

## COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**Jill Holcomb '06 BSN Nursing and '10 MSN Nursing** is a Nurse Practitioner in College Station, Texas. She is currently in wound care and never thought this is where she would end up, but she loves it. Her brother is following in her footsteps and is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. She is so proud of him.

**Maylin Faith Gerardo-Lopez '12 MSN Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner** graduated Cum Laude with her Master of Science in Nursing with a focus as Family Nurse Practitioner in May 2012, after working in the emergency room for eight years. She joined the Valley Emergency Nurse Practitioner Group in August 2012 and works at the Valley Baptist Emergency Department in Harlingen, Texas. She sees an average of 30 patients per day. While she enjoys the medical field, she also has many interests such as dance, music, and art. She hopes to further her education and complete her doctorate degree for Nurse Practitioner in the near future.

**Debra Rey Vela '12 BSN Nursing** is a Registered Nurse on a Medical/Surgical/Telemetry unit at Christus Spohn South Hospital. She loves every minute of her job and works with one of the best teams. She was recently asked by her manager to be a leader on her Unit Base Council.

**Brittany A. Bartek '11 BSN Nursing** has been working at Seton Medical Center Austin in Austin, Texas, on the Orthopedics/Neurology/Urology/ENT

floor since October 2011. She hopes to take a medical mission trip to Africa this year and continue to serve in the Austin community.

**Jessica Morris Ives '08 BSN Nursing and '12 MSN Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner** has been married for one year. She has a baby boy due on April 1, 2013.

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**Lloyd C. Lindeburg '58 BS Engineering** has a grandson who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Nuclear Engineering from Texas A&M University-College Station and with a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Mark McNamara '93 BS Biology, '05 MS Biology, and '12 EDD Educational Leadership** completed his Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a Science Education Emphasis in fall 2012. Dr. McNamara is in his eighth year as an Instructor in the First Year Learning Communities Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He is dedicated to improving science education in South Texas through education and outreach.

**Nabil Nasser '06 BS Biology** is in his second year of his Ph.D. at the University of Vermont studying the effect of ants on the spread of invasive tree species in South Texas. Prior to that, he worked as the Resident Director of a study abroad program in West Africa.

**Sarah Flott '09 BS Biomedical Science** is a Veterinarian in Austin, Texas. She recently graduated from the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine.

**John De Witt '12 BS Biomedical Sciences and '12 BS Chemistry** is a Chemist for a new fracking company in San Antonio, Texas.

**Irvan Hendrik '11 MS Computer Science** married **Melina Wijaya '11**

**MS Mathematics** on June 30, 2012, in Jakarta, Indonesia, after almost nine years of dating. The couple works at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. He is a System Support Specialist II at the Mary and Jeff Bell Library. She is an Instructor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

**John Michael "Mike" Bradley '07 BS Mechanical Engineering Technology** has been promoted to Inside Sales Engineer Supervisor. His son, Landon Luke, just turned 4.

**Megan Claire Arnold '12 BS Biomedical Science Pre-Professional** works full time as a Veterinary Technician at Tanner Lakes Animal Clinic in Houston, Texas. She was invited to interview with Texas A&M University-College Station College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in January. She is waiting to hear of acceptance into the college's class of 2017.



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# MOMENTUM CAMPUS

UPDATE

Construction on the Dr. Jack Dugan Family Soccer and Track Stadium is close to the Fall finish line. Drivers traveling Nile Drive can easily see the progress that has been made to the physical structures, as the walls of the field house have been completed, and the interior construction is already well underway. The field house includes locker rooms, coaches' offices, an athletic training room and serve as the main entrance to the facility.



The skeleton of the press box and grandstand (pictured at left) is also easily visible to passers-by. Parts of the track, including the pits for the pole vault and steeple chase, have already had their forms poured, and the track surface and turf soccer field will be installed shortly. By this fall, the new women's soccer program and the award-winning track program will make the Dr. Jack Dugan Family Soccer & Track Stadium home.





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